

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 OPIC-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 /068 W

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R 042205Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4727

INFO PANCANAL

USSOUTHCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, PN

SUBJECT: TRT TAX

REF: STATE 172766

1. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE CHANCES OF OBTAINING A POSTPONEMENT OF THE GOP DECISION ON TRT'S TAX LIABILITY FOR CANAL ZONE OPERATIONS, SINCE "AN INDEFINITE DELAY" IS A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE CONCEPT HERE AT THIS TIME. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THE GOP MIGHT REACT POSITIVELY TO AN INFORMAL APPROACH OR CONSULTATION ON AN OFFICIAL LEVEL AND THAT THE IDEA SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH TRT MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT TRT WOULD WORRY MUCH THAT PROPOSAL MIGHT COMPLICATE TRT NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTEL. OUR IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSIONS HERE IS THAT COMPANY IS HAPPY WITH ANY EXTENSION OF STATUS QUO WHICH DELAY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS MAKES POSSIBLE.

2. LATEST EMBASSY CONTACT WITH TRT MANAGER FOR PANAMA (BARRIOS) CONFIRMED FACT THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM WASHINGTON ON QUESTION OF PAYING TAX ON CANAL ZONE OPERATIONS AND WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS. HE SURMISED THAT THE QUESTION MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO A "HIGHER LEVEL", I.E. THE CURRENT GOP-UNITED BRANDS
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NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN LOCALLY

WHETHER THAT IS THE CASE, BUT FACT THAT FUTURE STATUS OF OTHER
UB INTERESTS IN PANAMA HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY DETERMINED MIGHT
BE FURTHER POINT TO MAKE IN REQUESTING GOP TO DELAY TAX
DECISION.
JORDEN

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